

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/620,464

Examiner

Jacques M Saint-Surin

Applicant(s)

KENNEDY ET AL.

Art Unit

2856

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the application of 07/16/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-33.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 16 July 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____. |
| 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. <u>2</u> | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Reasons for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Patton (US Patent 5,915,277) discloses a probe and method for inspecting an object. In this reference, a flexible ultrasonic transducer and a flexible eddy current sensor are provided. The flexible ultrasonic transducer and the flexible eddy current sensor are coupled together to form the probe. The probe simultaneously inspects the volume and the surface of the object, wherein the flexible ultrasonic transducer inspects the volume of the object and the flexible eddy current sensor inspects the surface of the object.

Sliwa, Jr. et al. (US Patent 6,122,538) discloses a system for tracking the position and orientation of a movable medical imaging device is provided. The system includes a first sensor disposed on the movable device which measures a first parameter of motion and a second sensor, of a different type than said first sensor, disposed on the movable device which measures a second parameter of motion. A transmit array is located remotely from the movable device and a computer is coupled to the transmit array, the first sensor and the second sensor. The computer instructs the transmit array to transmit signals that are received by the first sensor and the computer receives signals from the first sensor indicative of the first parameter of motion and from the second sensor indicative of the second parameter of motion.

Junker et al. (US Patent 5,161,413) discloses an ultrasonic probe transmits ultrasonic energy into the object to generate reflected energy when the transmitted energy impinges upon a discontinuity in the object. The ultrasonic probe is guided by an eddy

current guide component which is also disposed in the housing. In a preferred form, an eddy current probe is placed on either side of the ultrasonic probe. The two eddy current probes each generate an electromagnetic field in the object. Disruptions in the field are created at an edge of the underlying structural component of the object. The eddy current probe detects the disruptions in the field and generates an electronic signal when disruptions are detected. The two eddy current probes can be used to detect opposed edges of an internal structural feature such as a rib in an aircraft wing. The two signals generated from the eddy current probes can be used to select the lateral positioning of the ultrasonic probe so that it remains within the desired path as it travels longitudinally along the path during an inspection.

However, none of the above references discloses a tracking probe disposed proximate an opposed second surface of the structure, said tracking probe also comprising a magnet for cooperating with the magnet of said driven probe to draw the driven and tracking probes toward the first and second surfaces of the structure, respectively, wherein magnetic attraction between said driven and tracking probes causes said tracking probe to be moved over the second surface of the structure in response to corresponding movement of said driven probe” as recited in claim 1. These limitations are neither taught nor made obvious by the prior art of record.

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Art Unit: 2856

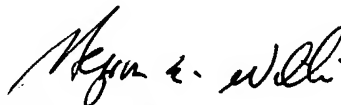
3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jacques M Saint-Surin whose telephone number is (703) 308-3698. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hezron Williams can be reached on (703) 305-4705. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308 0956.



Jacques M. Saint-Surin
December 27, 2003



HEZRON WILLIAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800